

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 NEA-09 AID-05

TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 091263

R 300656Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 1226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, UNESCO, SEDU

SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

REF: STATE 16379

1. GOJ WENT ALL OUT LAST WEEK TO LAUNCH UN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING, MARSHALLING THE EMPEROR, PRIME MINISTER MIKI, EDUCATION MINISTER NAGAI, AND TOP FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO WELCOME COUNCIL MEMBERS. MIKI ALSO MADE POINT OF WELCOMING ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY IN HIS SPEECH TO OPENING OF DIET JANUARY 24. FOREIGN MINISTRY PRIED LOOSE FROM FINANCE MINISTRY FIRST \$20 MILLION PAYMENT OF JAPAN'S \$100 MILLION PLEDGE TO UN UNIVERSITY. THEY PROVIDED FACILITIES FOR THE MEETING IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND PROMISED FUTURE QUARTERS FOR THE UNIVERSITY HEADQUARTERS.

2. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, UN BUREAU (OTAKA), COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS TO USIS OFFICER CONCERNING GOJ ATTITUDES: CONTRIBUTION OF JAPAN CONSISTS OF NOT ONLY THE FIVE-YEAR \$100 MILLION IN \$20 MILLION INCREMENTS, BUT PHYSICAL SUPPORT-- FACILITIES AND REAL ESTATE, WHICH CAN BE QUITE EXPENSIVE IN TOKYO. THERE ARE NO FACILITIES AT PRESENT SINCE THE UNU STAFF AND THE COUNCIL WILL DETERMINE THEIR NEEDS AND PICK A SITE LATER. UNIVERSITY RECTOR JAMES M. HESTER IS
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EXPECTED TO RETURN TO JAPAN TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES IN

SEPTEMBER, AT WHICH TIME OFFICE FOR HIM AND HIS SEVEN VICE RECTORS AND STAFF OF 55 WILL BE PROVIDED IN A COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING IN SHIBUYA, SECTION OF TOKYO. THE EVENTUAL SITE WILL PROBABLY BE A NEW BUILDING DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. QUESTION OF FUNDS REMAIN THE CHIEF PROBLEM FOR JAPAN. GOJ APPRECIATES THE CONTRIBUTION FROM SENEGAL OF \$22,000, MAKING IT THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY SO FAR TO JOIN IN, AN EMBARRASSMENT TO JAPAN. THEY HOPE FOR SOME KIND OF BREAK-THROUGH SOON -- PERHAPS CANADA WILL PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION NEXT. THEY ALSO ADMIT THAT THEY HAD HOPED THE APPOINTMENT OF HESTER WOULD ENCOURAGE OFFICIAL USG SUPPORT, BUT NOW AT LEAST HOPE HE CAN HELP GET SOME PRIVATE FOUNDATION MONEY FROM THE U.S. THESE HOPES DEPEND MUCH ON UNCERTAINTIES -- THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. JAPAN WILL HOWEVER, CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS NO MATTER WHAT.

4. THUS, GOJ IS EXPRESSING DETERMINATION, BUT CAUTIOUSLY, TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE UNU SITUATION. HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THEMES IN GOJ PUBLIC STATEMENTS. JAPAN'S PREFERENCE FOR SOME INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IS THROUGH THE UN UNIVERSITY. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S WELCOMING STATEMENT THAT UN UNIVERSITY WOULD HELP JAPAN IN ITS EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD IMPLIES THIS PREFERENCE OVER OTHER INTERNATIONAL AID OR BILATERAL PROGRAMS, AND THEY STILL HOPE TO SEE IT WORK OUT.

5. JAPANESE PRESS ATTENTION WAS MODEST BUT CONSTRUCTIVE. EARLIER PRESS COMMENTS OF LAST YEAR ABOUT THE UNFORTUNATE CONVERGENCE OF THE OIL CRISIS AND THE UNU FOUNDING WERE PLAYED OUT WHEN PRESIDENT HESTER WAS FIRST NAMED AND THE TEMPORARY OFFICE OPENED IN TOKYO. THIS TIME THE TONE WAS GENERALLY APPROVING. ASAHI, MAINICHI, NIHON KEIZAI, YOMIURI, AND SANKEI ALL REPORTED THE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MODEST FIVE-TO-SEVEN INCH ARTICLES MOSTLY ON INSIDE PAGES, WITH ONE OR TWO LOW-KEY FRONT-PAGE PLACEMENTS. MAIN ITEMS REPORTED WERE HESTER AIRPORT INTERVIEW, GOJ \$20 MILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTRIBUTION, AND SELECTION OF SIX AREAS OF EMPHASIS FOR UNIVERSITY, NAMELY HUNGER, DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. PROBLEM OF FUND RAISING, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE JAPAN, AND SEARCH FOR PERMANENT SITE WERE ALSO MENTIONED. THERE WERE NO EDITORIALS.

6. US COUNCIL MEMBER EDWARD WEIDNER REPORTED TO USIS

OFFICER THAT THIS MEETING HAD MOVED HIM PERSONALLY FROM PREVIOUS PESSIMISM TO STANCE OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT FUTURE OF UN UNIVERSITY. HE CITED MAJORITY CONSENSUS THAT COUNCIL MUST MOVE SLOWLY, MUST FIRST DEFINE EXACT EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY, MUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT MATERIALIZES, AND ABOVE ALL MUST AVOID MAKING COMMITMENTS BEFORE HESTER IS ON BOARD AND HAS TIME TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROBLEM-ORIENTED APPROACH, HOWEVER. WEIDNER POINTED TO JANUARY 1976 MEETING IN TOKYO AS CRUCIAL TIME, WHEN HESTER WILL BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT HIS BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. WEIDNER REPORTED COUNCIL CONSENSUS THAT FOR UN UNIVERSITY TO BECOME VIABLE INSTITUTION, RELATIVELY AUTONOMOUS OF BOTH POLITICAL PRESSURES AND UN BUREAUCRACY, IT WILL NEED ENDOWMENT OF FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. OF THIS, NEXT STEP MUST BE AN INDICATION OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT FROM BOTH EUROPE AND NEWLY RICH ARAB OIL NATIONS. IRAN REPORTED TO BE A HOPEFUL PROSPECT. RECOGNIZING GREAT DIFFICULTY IN ANY SIZEABLE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION, EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR PRIVATE, WEIDNER ALSO CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR THE UNIVERSITY IF US WERE TO MOVE AHEAD OF EUROPE AND THE ARABS, IN EFFECT MAKING THE UNIVERSITY A JAPAN-US CONDOMINIUM.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE UN UNIVERSITY IS A MATTER OF INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE FOR JAPAN, SIMILAR TO THE OLYMPICS. HENCE WE CREDIT OTAKA'S VIEW THAT GOJ WILL MAKE GOOD ITS COMMITMENTS TO UN UNIVERSITY FOR SEVERAL YEARS, NO MATTER WHAT, UNTIL IT BECOMES CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD. THE JAPANESE PUBLIC DOES NOT APPEAR MUCH INTERESTED IN THE UN UNIVERSITY, IN OUR OPINION, BUT WE DO BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC OPINION CONSIDERS IT HIGH TIME FOR JAPAN TO HAVE SOME MAJOR WORLD ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN JAPAN. A CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION IS MOST ATTRACTIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION AND CAN HARDLY BE CRITICIZED BY ANYONE.

9. JAPANESE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IS INTERESTED OF COURSE. WEIDNER, IN USIS-ARRANGED MEETING WITH PRIVATE UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN, REPORTED WIDE INTEREST AND RESPECT FOR HIS ROLE IN UN UNIVERSITY.

10. UNPRECEDENTED NATURE FOR JAPAN OF UN UNIVERSITY HEAD-QUARTERS HERE WIL MAKE FOR BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. FOR JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE REST

OF THE WORLD, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE PRESENCE HERE OF THE
UN UNIVERSITY HEADQUARTERS CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRI-
BUTION IN HELPING TO OPEN UP TO THE WORLD THE RATHER
CLOSED AND CULTURE-BOUND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF JAPAN.
THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME PRIORITY INTEREST TO EDUCATION
MINISTER NAGAI AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL LEADERS WHO FEEL
THAT THEIR OWN SYSTEM SHOULD BETTER PREPARE JAPANESE TO
WORK IN A COMMON WORLD WITH OTHER CULTURES AND TEOPLES.
WE THINK SO TOO.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNIVERSITIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO01226
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0156
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975015/aaaaaebh.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 16379
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
TAGS: SEDU, UN, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006